

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 CU-04 DRC-01 /094 W

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R 270755Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4551

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 4139

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SCUL PINT KS US

SUBJECT: GREGEROY HENDERSON CASE

REF: SEOUL 4025

1. COVERAGE OF HENDERSON CASE IN NEWS COLUMNS OF SEOUL

DAILIES DROPPED OFF SHARPLY ON JUNE 22. USIS PRESS

SOURCES DESCRIBE EVENTS LEADING UP TO CUT-OFF AS FOLLOWS:

2. ON JUNE 19, ORIENT PRESS, (OP), WHICH HAS CONTRACT  
WITH UPI, RECEIVED UPI STORY DATEDLINE MEDFORD, MASS.

INTER ALIA STORY QUOTED HENDERSON AS SAYING THAT WHILE  
HE WAS IN KOREA HE "VOLUNTEERED TO  
TURN OVER TO THE KOREAN NATIONAL MUSEUM ANY ARTICLES THAT  
MIGHT BE OF HISTORICAL IMPORT BUT THAT NONE WAS REQUESTED."

3. THESE SOURCES FURTHER REPORT THAT UNIDENTIFIED "ROKG  
AUTHORITIES" ON JUNE 20 ORDERED OP TO REWRITE THAT  
PORTION OF THE STORY AS FOLLOWS: HENDERSON DISCLOSED  
THAT, "NO PIECE OF MINE WAS EVER LISTED IN THE LIST OF  
NATIONAL TREASURES" AND THAT HE WOULD VOLUNTARILY RETURN  
TO THE KOREAN NATIONAL MUSEUM ANY ARTICLES REQUESTED  
IF THEY ARE OF HISTORICAL VALUE, BUT NONE HAS BEEN  
REQUESTED.

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4. UNACCOUNTABLY, THIS OP ALTERATION OF UP COPY WAS

NOT PICKED UP BY SEOUL PAPERS ALTHOUGH IT APPEARS IN FOURTH KOREAN LANGUAGE OP BULLETIN DISTRIBUTED TO NEWSPAPERS AT ABOUT 2:00 PM ON JUNE 20.

5. ON JUNE 21 A REPRESENTATIVE OF ROK COUNTER INTELLIGENCE CORPS (CIC) APPREARED IN OFFICES OF GOVERNMENT'S SEOUL SHINMUN WITH A SECOND REWRITE OF UPI STORY AND ORDERED PAPER TO PRINT IT THAT DAY WITH UPI LOGOTYPE APPEARING. THIS VERSION STATED MR. HENDERSON...SAID "IF HE (LEE SOON-GUN PRESIDENT OF KCPPA) POINTS OUT ANY ARTICLES THAT MIGHT BE OF HISTORICAL VALUE AND ASKS FOR THEIR RETURN, I WILL VOLUNTARILY TURN THEM OVER TO THE KOREAN NATIONAL MUSEUM."

6. THIS STORY APPEARED IN SEOUL SHINMUN ONLY AT ABOUT NOON JUNE 21. USIS PRESS SOURCES STATE THAT THIS SIGNALLED END OF HENDERSON CASE BECAUSE BY VOLUNTEERING TO RETURN PIECES, HENDERSON HAD "SURRENDERED TO ROK".

7. COMMENT: PRESS SOURCES SPECULATE THAT SHARP DROP IN NEWS REPORTING THIS CASE, INDICATES ROKG MAY HAVE RECOGNIZED FACT THAT POLITICAL MOTIVATION AND GOVERNMENT ROLE IN KCPPA DEMANDS OF HENDERSON WAS BECOMING TOO OBVIOUS AND THREATENED POTENTIAL EMBARRASSMENT TO ROKG. GOVERNMENT MAY ALSO SIMPLY HAVE CONCLUDED THAT FOR TIME BEING AT LEAST IT HAD NOT SUCCEEDED IN INTIMIDATING HENDERSON AND HAD OBTAINED ALL THE POLITICAL MILEAGE IT WAS GOING TO GET.

8. APART FROM ITS MOTIVATIONS, WE FIND DISTURBING LENGTHS TO WHICH ROKG MAY HAVE GONE TO TURN OFF REPORTING. OP REWRITE OF UPI STORY, CLEARLY ALTERING TENSE OF HENDERSON QUOTE, MAY BE BREACH OF OP'S CONTRACT WITH UPI AND, IN ANY CASE, IS CLEAR BREACH OF PRACTICE EVEN IF DONE UNDER DURESS. SECOND CIC RE-WRITE AND CIC ORDER TO SEOUL SHINMUN TO CARRY STORY WITH UP LOGO ATTACHED IS EVEN MORE SERIOUS

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9. OP AND CIC REWRITES OF UPI KNOWN TO ONLY FEW LOCAL JOURNALISTS HERE BUT THEY ARE DISCUSSING THIS AMONG SELVES. UPI NEW YORK MAY GET WIND OF EPISODE AND FEEL BOUND TO MAKE SOME SORT OF PROTEST WHICH COULD BECOME PUBLIC.

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## Message Attributes

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